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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

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June 9, 2000

Box PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111 and 37 C.F.R. 1.53 is the patent application of Tina Marie Nielsen, et al., entitled: TOWEL OR BLANKET WITH INTEGRAL CARRYING CASE.

Enclosed are:

- [x] 9 pages of written description, claims and abstract.
[X] 2 sheet(s) of drawing(s).
[] an assignment of the invention to _____
[x] executed declaration of the inventor(s).
[] associate power of attorney.
[x] a verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27.
[x] information disclosure statement.
[] preliminary amendment.
[x] return receipt postcard
[] other: _____

A check in the amount of \$345 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

The amount of the filing fee was determined as follows:

Basic Fee: -----	\$690
Number of independent claims: ----- 1	
Independent claims in excess of 3: --- 0	
Number of extra x \$78 -----	-0-
Total number of claims: ----- 9	
Claims in excess of 20: ----- 0	
Number of extra x \$18 -----	-0-
Number of multiple dependent claims: ----- 0	
Multiple dependent claims x \$260 -----	-0-
TOTAL: -----	\$690
SMALL ENTITY TOTAL: -----	\$345

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Howard
Registration No. 22,437

**STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS
(37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(b))—INDEPENDENT INVENTOR**

Docket Number (Optional)

Applicant, Patentee, or Identifier: Tina Marie Nielsen et al.

Application or Patent No.: _____

Filed or Issued: _____

Title: TOWEL OR BLANKET WITH INTEGRAL CARRYING CASE

As a below named inventor, I hereby state that I qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees to the Patent and Trademark Office described in:

- ☒ the specification filed herewith with title as listed above.
- ☐ the application identified above.
- ☐ the patent identified above.

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed, and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license, any rights in the invention to any person who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern, or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or am under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey, or license any rights in the invention is listed below:

- ☒ No such person, concern, or organization exists.
- ☐ Each such person, concern, or organization is listed below.

Separate statements are required from each named person, concern, or organization having rights to the invention stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

Tina Marie Nielsen

NAME OF INVENTOR

Larry M. Nielsen

NAME OF INVENTOR

NAME OF INVENTOR

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

Signature of Inventor

6/8/00

Date

6/8/00

Date

Date

Burden Hour Statement. This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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TOWEL OR BLANKET WITH INTEGRAL CARRYING CASE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional
Application No. 60/140,235, filed June 21, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a towel or blanket
having an integral carrying case.

10 People going to the beach, swimming pool, hiking,
camping, etc. often carry a towel or blanket in one arm and
miscellaneous items in their other hand, which is clumsy and
inconvenient.

15 When laying down at the beach, etc., it is more
comfortable if something can be found to place under your
head. Pillows, however, are too bulky to carry very far.

When a towel is placed on a lounge chair it tends to slip
off the chair. Items placed under the chair are sometimes
forgotten when leaving.

20

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a
towel or blanket having an integral carrying case which
alleviates many of the foregoing problems.

25

The present invention provides a towel or blanket which
can be stuffed into an attached case for easy carrying. The

case is adapted to receive a pillow when the towel or blanket is deployed for use.

The invention comprises a rectangular sheet of towel or blanket type material.

5 The sheet has a case attached to its upper portion which can be used as a pillow case when the sheet is in use as a towel or blanket, and is used as the carrying/storage case for the sheet when it is not in use as a towel or blanket.

10 At least one pocket is located adjacent each of the longitudinal edges of the sheet for handy storage of personal items.

Slip cover pockets are attached at one or both ends of the sheet and are adapted to fit over the ends of a lounge chair.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a top view of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

20 FIG. 2 is a back view of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a top view of an alternative embodiment of the towel or blanket of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a right side view of a lounge chair having the towel or blanket of the present invention placed thereon; and

25 FIG. 5 is a perspective view of the case containing the towel or blanket of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The sheet of the present invention may be used as either a towel or blanket. In discussing the invention below, the sheet will be discussed relative to its use as a beach towel; however, it is to be understood that the sheet may be made of blanket type material and used as a blanket when camping, etc.

Towel 10 is a generally rectangular sheet 12 having ends 14 and 15 and longitudinal side edges 16 and 17.

Sheet 12 is a flexible material of the type used to make towels, such as terry cloth. However, many types of natural, synthetic or recycled materials may be used for making sheet 12 for use as a towel or blanket. Such materials include wool, rayon, polyester, velvet, silk, mock silk, cotton, cotton blends, nylon, knits, canvas, denim, vinyl, leather, suede, mock leather, suede and nubuck.

A case 20 is attached, such as by sewing a portion of the inner surface of case 20 to the upper portion of sheet 12. Case 20 is made of flexible material, preferably the same material as rectangular sheet 12. Sheet 12 is attached to case 20

In a preferred embodiment, as best seen in FIG. 5, case 20 has substantially parallel front and rear walls 21 and 22, substantially parallel side walls 23 and 24, and a bottom wall 25.

In the preferred embodiment shown in FIG. 5, the inner surface of the rear wall 22 of case 20 is attached to sheet

12. As viewed in FIG. 5, the inner surfaces of front and rear walls 21 and 22, side walls 23 and 24, and bottom wall 25 are all located inside case 20. In FIG. 1 the inner surface of front wall 21 is illustrated.

5 A flap 26 extends from the upper edge of rear wall 22 and can be folded down over the upper edge of front wall 21. Flap 26 can be secured to front wall 21 in any suitable manner, such as by mating snaps 27 and 28. However, other fastener means, such as a zipper, hook and loop fastener material, etc.
10 may be used.

Carrying means comprised of a strap 29 is attached to case 20 for ease of carry. Although the carrying means is illustrated in FIG. 5 as being a purse type strap 29, the strap may be attached along one side wall 23 or 24 to provide
15 a tote bag type strap, or a pair of straps attached to the rear wall 22 to provide a backpack type strap. A handle or drawstrings may be used as the carrying means.

Although the preferred embodiment of case 20 has been described as having front, rear, side and bottom walls, in an
20 alternative embodiment (not shown) case 20 may be formed of only front and rear walls attached together along three sides. In yet another embodiment (not shown), case 20 may have a cylindrical shape open at one end.

As seen in FIGS. 1 and 2, storage pockets 30 and 32 may
25 be located substantially on each longitudinal edge 16 and 17 in a mid-portion thereof. Alternatively, a plurality of

storage pockets 34 and 36 may be located inboard of longitudinal edges 16 and 17, respectively, as seen in FIG. 3. Pockets 30, 32, 34 and 36 are used for storing items such as lotions, etc.

5 Upper and lower slip cover pockets 40 and 42 are used to secure the upper and lower ends 14 and 15, respectively, of towel 10 to the upper torso portion and the leg portion, respectively, of a lounge chair 50. Although in the preferred embodiment slip cover pockets 40 and 42 are located at each
10 end of sheet 12, the invention also contemplates locating a single slip cover pocket 40 at only the upper end of sheet 12.

Slip cover pockets 40 and 42 may be easily formed by folding the ends of sheet 12 back on itself and sewing together the overlying edges.

15 When towel 10 is in use, i.e., the configuration shown in FIGS. 1-4, case 20 is reversed and a pillow (not shown) can be inserted into case 20. Preferably, the pillow is an inflatable type which can be more easily transported.

20 After completion of use, towel 10 is removed from lounge chair 50 and the pillow removed from case 20. Case 20 is then turned inside out (reversed) and sheet 12 stuffed inside reversed case 20. Flap 26 is secured to front wall 21 and the user carries case 20 by means of strap 29.

25 Deployment of towel 10 for use involves the reverse procedure, i.e., flap 26 is opened and sheet 12 pulled out of case 20. Case 20 is reversed for use as a pillow case.

For use in wet or damp locations, flexible sheet 12 may have a waterproof sheet of material attached to the bottom side thereof, such as by stitching the two together. The waterproof sheet should be substantially the same size as flexible sheet 12, i.e., the ends and side edges of the waterproof sheet should be substantially coextensive with the ends 14 and 15 and side edges 16 and 17 of sheet 12. The waterproof sheet may be made of a plastic material, such as polyethylene or vinyl, or a natural or synthetic rubber.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that many changes may be made to the above-described embodiments of this invention that employ the underlying principles thereof. The scope of the present invention should, therefore, be determined only by the following claims.

THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A combination of a flexible sheet usable as a towel or blanket and a carrying case integral with said flexible sheet comprising:

5 a flexible, rectangular sheet having first and second ends and first and second longitudinal edges; and

a flexible case openable at one end, said case having an outer surface and an inner surface, a portion of said inner surface of said case being attached to said sheet in the top portion of said sheet, said case being adapted to permit said sheet to be stuffed inside said case for transport and storage and to receive a pillow when said sheet is deployed outside said case and said case is reversed.

15 2. The combination of claim 1 including a slip cover pocket located at the first end of said sheet, said slip cover pocket being configured to be placed over that end of a lounge chair adapted to receive a user's upper torso.

20 3. The combination of claim 2 further including a second slip cover pocket located at the second end of said sheet, said second slip cover pocket being configured to be placed over the other end of said lounge chair.

25 4. The combination of claim 1 including at least one pocket located adjacent each of said longitudinal edges.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein said pockets are all located substantially on said longitudinal edges and extend away from said sheet.

5 6. The combination of claim 4 wherein said pockets are all located inwardly of said longitudinal edges.

7. The combination of claim 1 wherein said case has carrying means attached to the outer surface thereof.

10

8. The combination of claim 7 wherein said carrying means is a strap.

15

9. The combination of claim 1 including a waterproof sheet attached to the bottom side of said flexible sheet, said waterproof sheet being substantially the same size as said flexible sheet.

ABSTRACT

The combination of a towel or blanket and a flexible carrying case integral therewith. The carrying case is attached at a portion of its inner surface to the towel or blanket in an upper portion thereof. The carrying case is adapted to permit the towel or blanket to be stuffed inside during transport and storage of the towel or blanket, and adapted to receive a pillow when the towel or blanket has been withdrawn from the case for use. The towel or blanket additionally includes slip cover pockets located at one or both ends and adapted to be placed over the end or ends of a lounge chair. The towel or blanket further includes pockets for storing items.

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Fig. 3

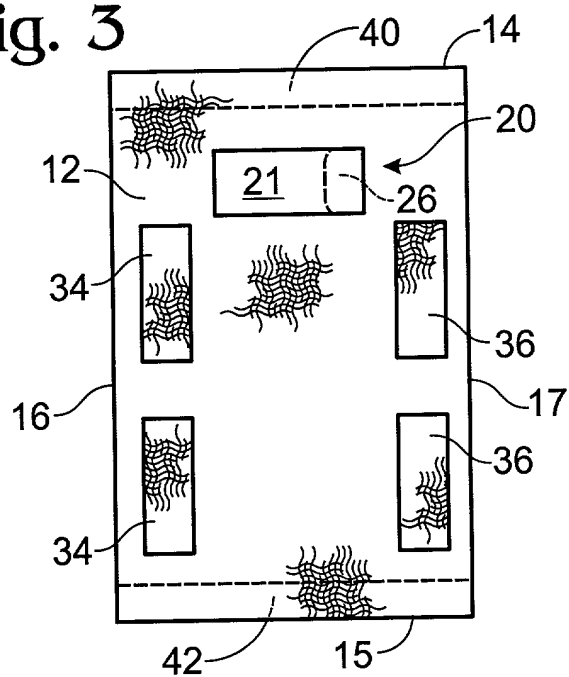


Fig. 4

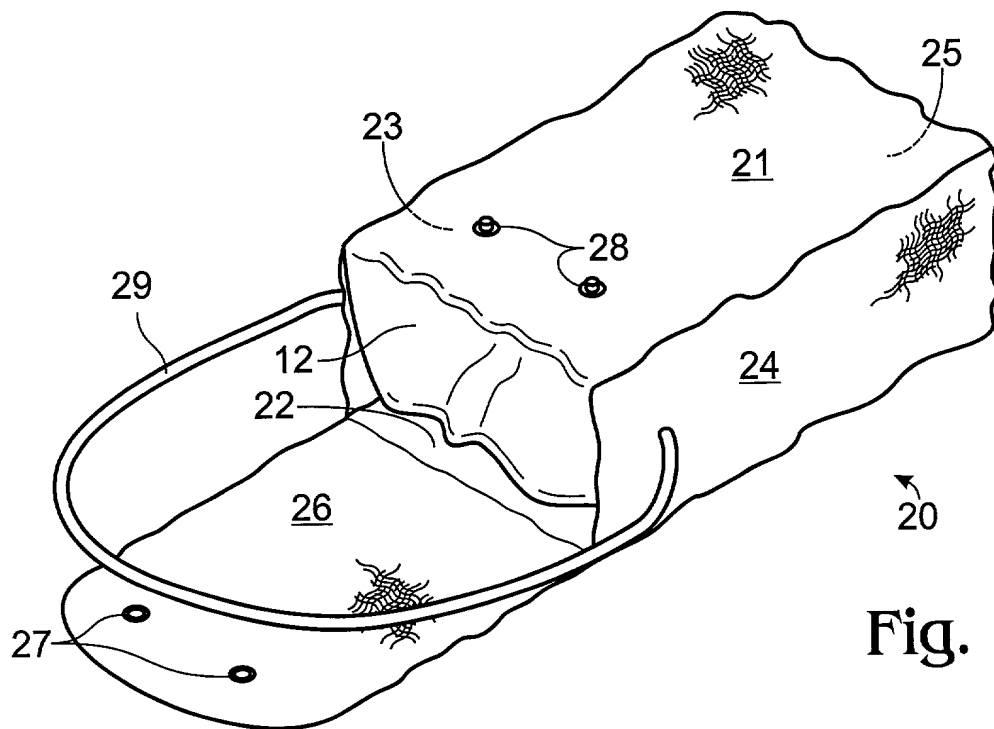
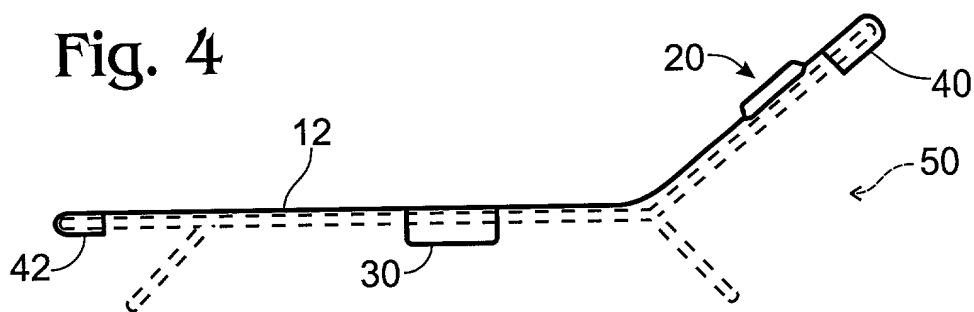


Fig. 5

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
Original Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

TOWEL OR BLANKET WITH INTEGRAL CARRYING CASE

the specification of which

(check one) ☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____
as patent application Serial No. _____ and was
amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendments referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of United States provisional application No. 60/140,235 filed June 21, 1999.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own

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